

DELPHINIUM VIRESCENS IN ALABAMA

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Delphinium virescens Nutt. (Ranunculaceae) is a polycarpic, herbaceous perennial that occurs throughout a large portion of the prairies and plains of the United States and extends into Manitoba, Canada (Ewan, 1945; Fernald, 1950; Gleason and Cronquist, 1963). Weaver and Fitzpatrick (1934) list it as a characteristic species of both upland and lowland prairies. In addition to its wide geographical distribution in the North American Grasslands, disjunct populations of the species occur in the cedar glades of central Tennessee (Quarterman, 1950; Baskin *et al.*, 1968; Baskin and Baskin, 1974) and northwestern Georgia (Baskin *et al.*, 1968).

Apparently *Delphinium virescens* has not been reported from Alabama. It is not listed by Mohr (1901) in his *Plant Life of Alabama* and neither Small (1933), Fernald (1950), nor Gleason and Cronquist (1963) include Alabama in their range descriptions of the species. In fact, Small (1933) and Fernald (1950) do not list it as occurring in the southeastern United States. Gleason and Cronquist (1963) include Louisiana alone of the Southeastern states in their range delineation. In a recent publication, which included several new state records for plants in Alabama, Kral (1973) made no mention of *D. virescens*.

The purpose of this communication is to report the occurrence of *Delphinium virescens* in Alabama. On 27 May, 1972, we found a small population of this species growing in shallow, limestone soil in Jackson County in northern Alabama (Baskin & Baskin 1317). The population is located along U.S. 72, 0.4 mile east of its intersection with Ala. 79. Plants associated with *D. virescens* at this locality included: *Arenaria patula* Michx. var. *patula*, *Senecio smallii* Britt., *Agave virginica* L., *Croton monanthogynus* Michx., *Houstonia lanceolata* (Poir.) Britt., *Ruellia humilis* Nutt., *Ophioglossum engelmanni* Prantl, *Opuntia compressa*

(Salisb.) Macbr., *Verbena simplex* Lehn., *Monarda fistulosa* L. and *Prunella vulgaris* L.

A voucher specimen of *Delphinium virescens* from the Alabama location has been sent to VDB.

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